

Valuable Statistical Report from a Herald Correspondent at Geneva.

ISOLATED SWITZERLAND.

Why the Commercial Importance of the Model Republic of Europe is Misunderstood.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

Americans as Consumers of Watches, Silks, Cheeses, Embroidered Cotton Goods and Asphalts.

GENEVA, Switzerland, July 30, 1873.

Trade statistics relating to the intercourse between the United States and Switzerland present a peculiar interest, from the fact that the tables of export have no place among the annual returns obtained from the Custom House. Being an inland State, Switzerland sends her produce and manufactures through foreign ports, and thus helps to swell the importance of trade returns of other countries. The accompanying tables have been compiled from the returns of the Consular books, and tend to show that the shipments during the past ten years have gradually and steadily increased. Thus it will be seen that the export of gold and silver watches has more than doubled since 1864. The export of Swiss cheese, of invoices, which in 1872 exceeded \$4,000,000, represents, however, only a small portion of the actual export of watches to the United States. In the first place, it is well known that very few American tourists return home from European travel without having purchased a watch, and it is well understood that there are various other ways by which large numbers of watches are brought to the United States without ever attracting the attention of the Custom House authorities. The Consular returns represent the average export from Geneva to be about \$700,000, comprising mostly gold and the more costly time-measuring instruments, while the larger shipments are invoiced under the name of watches, comprising the cheaper kind of watches, chiefly silver, manufactured by inhabitants of the Jura Mountains.

Nearly half a million's worth of watches, and other cheese, the produce of the "Emmenthal," finds its way to the United States. This is a curious incident, considering the fact that on the other hand American cheese can be found at nearly every Swiss or other Continental hotel. The article is usually palmed on the customer as Cheshire cheese, but to those who know the origin is unmistakable.

But the most remarkable feature in the Swiss tables refers to the export of embroidered cotton goods, the produce of St. Gall. A few years ago—say, 1860—the export exceeded barely \$100,000, while during the past year it exceeded \$2,000,000, and the Swiss authorities have orders in hand for the United States which will employ all available labor for the next twelve or fifteen months. There are two distinct articles under this head—namely, hand embroidery and machine embroidery. The first named gives employment to upwards of 12,000 persons, mostly women and children, whose wages vary from twenty-five to fifty cents per day. Hand embroidery consists of cotton tulle and muslin, used for curtains, handkerchiefs and numerous articles of ladies' dress. The tulle used as ground-work is imported from England or from neighboring factories in Alsace.

Machine embroidery gives employment to nearly 20,000 persons. Each machine is worked by an able-bodied person and a female assistant, who thread the needles, with an additional assistant for every two machines to mend defective places. Wages are paid per hundred stitches; the price of labor, varying according to the skill of the operator, averages about \$1 per day, the assistant female earning about thirty cents. The machines formerly employed in most kinds of embroidery consisted simply of a kind of frame, while those now in use are of an exceedingly ingenious character, increasing manifold the rapidity of working as well as giving greater variety and more richness in design. The needles have a point at each end, with eyes in the middle, attached to a kind of carriage. The travel over the web, passing the threads in and out, while the pliers take hold of the needle at one end of the web and send it back to the other. Machines have lately been introduced capable of working more than 100 needles at once, thus producing an infinite variety and beauty of patterns. So far the working of the new system has been kept secret, but there is now a machine at work at the Vienna Exhibition.

The web employed for common embroidery consists of cotton cambric, which, as well as the thread, is produced in Switzerland and Alsace. Articles of exquisite beauty are produced at St. Gall on what is known as Swiss muslin, but these better qualities of goods continue to be produced by hand, and are exported to the United States by ship to the United States. Thus the goods are introduced through British consulates.

Another novelty in French embroidery has been produced at Val de Travers, about twelve miles from Neuchâtel. It is a kind of embroidery, which is of late attracted by the various varieties of designs, which are applied. The mines at Val de Travers were known in the early part of the last century, and it appears that at that time the produce was much used for medicinal purposes. It is now used for the same purpose, and the mines are worked by a Frenchman, who has purchased the mines and erected a factory at La Presta, situated on the right bank of the river Reuse. The operation has been very prosperous ever since. Asphalts have been very prosperous without adulteration, and there is no need of any previous preparation, or rather, it should be said, for pavement of public thoroughfares. The demand for the article has been followed by a considerable increase in the value. At the beginning of the year, the price of the asphalt was about fifty cents per ton, while at the present day it yields \$4 per ton. About 100,000 tons have been extracted during the year, and the Government has established the existence of extensive layers, comprising an area of 300,000 cubic yards. Calculating that one-half ton is the yield of a cubic yard, it is estimated that 750,000 tons may be extracted from the mines at Neuchâtel.

Statement showing the declared value of exports to the United States from the Consular district of Zurich—

	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
Cotton goods.....	\$10,850	\$350,447	\$471,721	\$1,034,600	\$407,500
Woolen goods.....	70,400	70,400	115,304	637,221	630,515
Silk goods.....	4,200,125	3,030,232	3,850,339	5,227,022	5,257,387
Raw goods.....	120,472	74,097	55,991	107,079	125,384
Miscellaneous.....	67,150	170,011	114,458	250,790	101,992
Totals.....	\$4,118,997	\$4,360,977	\$4,567,913	\$6,634,702	\$6,523,178

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THE YELLOW FEVER.

Spread of the Disease in Shreveport—A Terrible Condition of Affairs—The Colored People Attacked—List of Intermittents Yesterday.

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TABLE.

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.
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Raw goods.....	2,207,610	2,207,610	2,207,610	2,207,610
Miscellaneous.....	2,041,518	2,041,518	2,041,518	2,041,518
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